Orissa, Bihar, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Union Territory of Delhi in the list of Scheduled Tribes is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) Banjaras are already included in the lists of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar. In the States of Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi they are included in the list of Scheduled Castes. All proposals regarding revision of the list of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes shall be considered before a comprehensive proposal for amending the lists is brought before Parliament.

Further, amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.

Price rationalisation scheme

2986. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Price Rationalisation Scheme for inputs is likely to be a part of the policy reforms being considered to achieve more widespread growth in the agricultural sector;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has been making efforts to develop a package of more appropriate projects for such region as also to involve the financial institutions more directly in the agricultural planning process; and

(c) if so, whether a number of studies have been taken on various aspects of agricultural development following the Prime Minister's directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Price rationalisation measures for inputs such as fertilisers, seeds and pesticides have already been initiated by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) The Special Foodgrain Production Programme based on the recommendations of the Task Force, set up by the Planning Commission, has been launched in 14 States in consultation with the State Governments. This programme envisages greater involvement of financial institutions in providing agricultural credit. Further, a number of studies have been taken up in pursuance of the directive of the Prime Minister to examine the potentialities of different agro-climatic regions for agricultural development.

Loss to Bombay branch of NCCF

2987. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an enquiry into the Rabi purchases '87 of Akola depot, Bombay branch of NCCF was conducted in early 1988 by a Head Office Official;

(b) whether the said enquiry revealed active involvement of two officers resulting into loss of Rs. 7 lakhs to NCCF; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the corrupt officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The enquiry was conducted in March, 1987.

(b) and (c) On the basis of enquiry report action against the concerned officers is being taken.

Setting up of labour appellate tribunals

2988. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute Labour Appellate Tribunals to decide appeals emanating from the Awards of Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals; and

(b) if not, what steps are being taken to clear off the huge appeals pending in the High Courts on Awards from Labour Courts|Industrial Tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Trade Unions and the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1988 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th May, 1988 provides *inter alia* for the transfer of such appeals to the Industrial Relations Commissions proposed to be set up under Article 323B of the Constitution. These Commissions are proposed to be entrusted with the functions of adjudication of Industrial Disputes (other than those assigned to Labour Courts) and hearing of appeals against the orders of the Labour Courts. The Bill is before the Parliament.

Application for exemption from ULC act pending in Tamil Nadu

2989. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications in Tamil Nadu pending for exemption from the provisions of Urban Land Ceiling Act as on 31st December, 1987;

(b) the number of applications cleared so far;

(c) the number of applications pending for three, five and ten years respectively; and

(d) what steps are being taken to clear the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Closure of industrial units

2990. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 228 industrial units were lying closed during 1987 affecting 93,251 workers;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for the closure of these units; and

(c) what corrective measures have been taken by Government to rehabilitate the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) According to the latest available information 297 units affecting 1,03,831 workers were closed during 1987 due to financial stringency, shortage of raw material, break down of machinery, and adverse market Conditions.

(c) Government have taken a series of measures to combat industrial sickness. These include the setting up of a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction which oversees and implements rehabilitation packages for sick industries. In addition to this, reliefs and concessional finances are available to sick units